

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

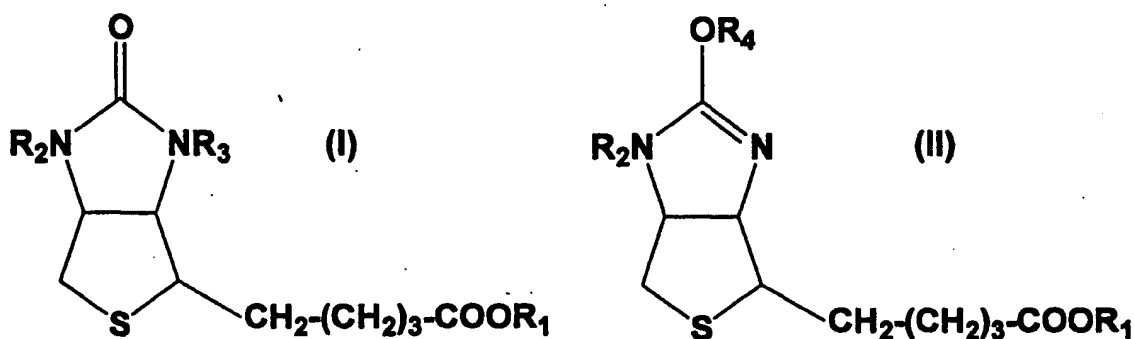
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method of making ~~Use of biotin, a biotin derivative or a salt thereof for manufacturing a composition for lightening the skin and/or smoothening skin color irregularities~~ comprising admixing biotin, a biotin derivative or a salt thereof with a cosmetic additive or pharmaceutical additive.

2. (Currently amended): A method of making ~~Use of biotin, a biotin derivative or a salt thereof for manufacturing a composition for lightening the skin, smoothening skin color irregularities and/or treating senile lentigos~~ comprising admixing ~~, wherein the biotin, a the biotin derivative or a the salt thereof are used together with~~ vitamin C or a vitamin C derivative.

3. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to claim 1 or 2,~~ wherein the biotin salt is an alkali salt, an earth alkali salt, an ammonium salt or a hydrochloride of the biotin or the biotin derivative.

4. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 3,~~ wherein the biotin derivative is a compound of formula I or formula II:



wherein

- R₁ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₅-C₇-cycloalkyl, or aryl;
R₂ and R₃ are each independently H or C₁-C₅-alkoxycarbonyl; and
R₄ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl or C₁-C₅-alkoxycarbonyl.

5. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 4,~~ wherein the composition is for topical administration.

6. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 4,~~ wherein the composition is for oral administration.

7. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 6,~~ wherein the composition is a cosmetic composition.

8. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 6,~~ wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.

9. (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 ~~Use according to any of claims 1 to 8,~~ wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is

present at a concentration of 0.001 to 50% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.

10. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 9[[,]] wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is present at a concentration of 0.01 to 1% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.

11. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 10~~, wherein the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is used together with sodium ascorbyl phosphate or a hydrate thereof, in particular the dihydrate thereof.

12. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 11~~, wherein the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative is present at a concentration of 0.001 to 50% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.

13. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 12, wherein the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative is present at a concentration of 0.1 to 15% by weight, in relation to the weight of the composition.

14. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 13~~, wherein the weight ratio of the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative, respectively, to the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is 500:1 to 1:500.

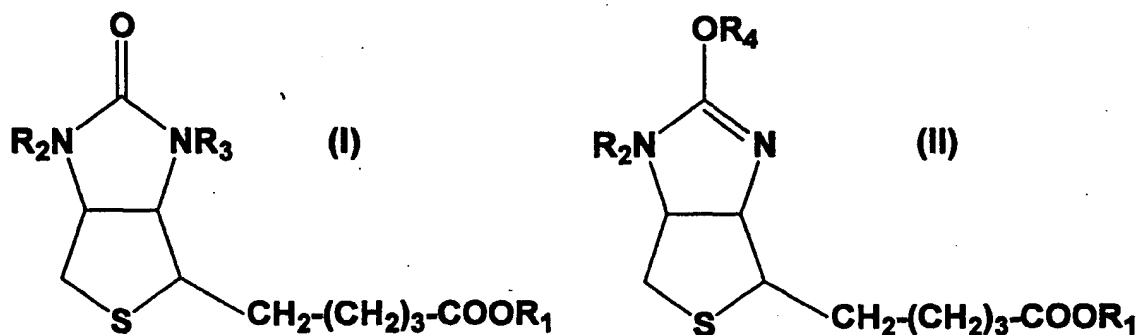
15. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 14[[,]] wherein the weight ratio of the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative, respectively, to the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof is 30:1 to 1:30.

16. (Currently amended): A method Use according to ~~any of claims 2 to 45~~, wherein the composition is arranged such that the biotin, the biotin derivative or the salt thereof and the vitamin C or the vitamin C derivative, respectively, are physically separated.

17. (Currently amended): A method Use according to claim 16[[,]] wherein one of the active ingredients is formulated for oral administration and the other is formulated for topical administration.

18. (New): A method according to claim 2, wherein the biotin salt is an alkali salt, an earth alkali salt, an ammonium salt or a hydrochloride of the biotin or the biotin derivative.

19. (New): A method according to claim 2, wherein the biotin derivative is a compound of formula I or formula II:



wherein

R₁ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₅-C₇-cycloalkyl, or aryl;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently H or C₁-C₅-alkoxycarbonyl; and

R₄ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl or C₁-C₅-alkoxycarbonyl.